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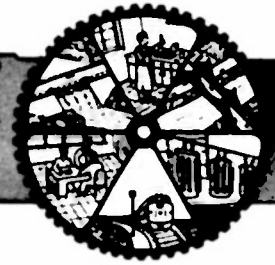
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**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

DEVELOPMENT  
OF A  
HIGH FREQUENCY  
STEERABLE ANTENNA

Classification cancelled in accordance with  
Executive Order 16291 issued 5 November 1953

*Nina B. Weaver*  
*9/23/54*  
Document Service Center  
Armed Services Tech. Info Agency

Navy Department  
Bureau of Ships  
Electronics Divisions

Interim Development  
Report No. 8

Contract No. NObsr-57448  
Index No. NE-091035 ST7  
10 May 1953

A PROJECT OF THE ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING  
Knoxville 16, Tennessee

*Incl 10*  
*Encl. (v) to Bu Ships Sec 327-577*

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INTERIM DEVELOPMENT REPORT  
FOR  
DEVELOPMENT OF A HIGH FREQUENCY  
STEERABLE ANTENNA

This report covers the period  
1 April 1953 to 30 April 1953

ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

Navy Department

Electronics Divisions

Bureau of Ships

Contract No. NObsr-57448

Index No. NE-091035 ST7

10 May 1953

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## ABSTRACT

This report covers work done on Contract No. NObsr-57448, Index No. NE-091035 ST7, at The University of Tennessee during the month of April 1953.

The following was accomplished:

1. The development of the physical facilities of the antenna test site was completed. The installation of instruments may now be made.
2. Maximum usable frequencies were determined, as a function of time of day, for transmitters located at Port Lyautey, Seattle, and Adak. The path lengths considered were 800, 1200, 3200 and 8000 kilometers and ionospheric data for June 1947 and January 1953 were used. A start was made in using these data for determining the necessary characteristics of the antenna.
3. Efforts were continued to obtain reliable angle-of-arrival data.
4. Work was continued on the problem of horizontal steering of the beam of a rhombic antenna. The numerical calculations have proven to be very involved and no results are yet available on the scheme being tried.
5. An investigation has been started of the possibility of improving the performance of square rhombic antennas by increasing the phase velocity along the conductors of the antenna. The results obtained to date are shown in Figures 5 to 7, inclusive.
6. All pertinent literature on V-antennas and on tilted antennas has been read as a first step in the investigation of the possibilities of using inclined radial wires as an antenna suitable for the present task.
7. Work was started on the analysis of the propagation characteristics of a circular travelling-wave antenna.
8. A circular array for which the horizontal pattern is invariant with frequency was investigated.

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## PART I

### Purpose

This project involves the development of a high frequency steerable antenna having the following characteristics:

1. It shall be operable throughout the frequency range of 4 to 32 megacycles per second.
2. It shall be capable of four, or more, simultaneous transmissions on different frequencies, and at different azimuth and elevation angles.
3. For each transmission, it shall be capable of being directed to any azimuth angle and to any elevation angle between the horizon and  $30^{\circ}$  above the horizon.

The communication system shall provide reliable 24-hour day-to-day communication with a 20-decibel signal-to-noise ratio. The ranges to be covered are from approximately 500 nautical miles to 4000 nautical miles.

The development consists of two phases:

Phase I. Theoretical and experimental studies.

Phase II. Development of design criteria.

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General Factual Data

Personnel:

F. V. Schultz	Project Director	96	Man-hours
W. D. Leffell*	Assistant Engineer	3	Man-hours
J. D. Tillman	Assistant Engineer	8	Man-hours
L. W. Ricketts*	Junior Engineer	40 1/2	Man-hours
H. P. Neff	Junior Engineer	176	Man-hours
G. R. Turner	Secy-Draftsman	84 1/2	Man-hours
L. Phillips*	Technician	80	Man-hours
C. E. Blakely	Student Computer	15	Man-hours
T. E. Lassiter	Student Computer	10	Man-hours
D. Marcum	Student Computer	54 1/2	Man-hours
H. Knox	Student Computer	139 1/2	Man-hours
D. J. Smith	Typist	4 1/2	Man-hours
A. Rich	Multilith Operator	3	Man-hours

\* Preparation of antenna test facility.

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- Carter, P. S., Hansell, C. W., and Lindenblad, N. E., "Development of Directive Transmitting Antennas by R. C. A. Communications, Inc.," Proceedings of the Institute of Radio Engineers, Vol. 19, p. 1773, October 1931.
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- Friis, H. T., Feldman, C. B., and Sharpless, W. M., "Determination of the Direction of Arrival of Short Radio Waves," Proceedings of the Institute of Radio Engineers, Vol. 22, p. 47, January 1934.
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Harrison, C. E., "The Radiation Field of Long Wires, with Application to Vee Antennas," Journal of Applied Physics, Vol. 14, p. 537, October 1943.

"Ionospheric Radio Propagation," U.S. Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards Circular No. 462, June 1948, Washington, D. C.

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Lewin, L., "Rhombic Transmitting Aerial," Wireless Engineer, May, 1941.

Williams, H. P., Antenna Theory and Design, Pitman and Sons, Ltd., London, 1950.

Harrison, C. W., Jr., "The Inclined Rhombic Antenna," Proceedings of the Institute of Radio Engineers, Vol. 30, p. 241, May 1942.

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### Detail Factual Data

1. The power line installation at the antenna test facility was completed. The delivery of the antenna pattern recorder has been delayed until after the first of June. All other test equipment is on hand and it is quite likely that experimental work will be started before the recorder is available - the antenna patterns being determined on a point-by-point basis.
2. The maximum usable frequencies (MUF's) have been determined, as a function of time-of-day at the transmitter, for transmitters located at Port Lyautey, Seattle and Adak, and for path lengths of 800, 1200, 3200 and 8000 kilometers north, south, east and west from each transmitter. Ionospheric conditions for June 1947 (sunspot number = 112) and for January 1953 (sunspot number = 30) were used. The results are contained in ninety curves - too many to allow their inclusion in this report. These curves of MUF versus time-of-day are now being used to determine two different operating frequencies to be used each day at each station, for each path length. This latter work has been completed for January 1953 and the results are summarized in Figures 1 and 2.

It is important to know in the antenna development how the vertical angle of the antenna beam must vary with frequency. In order to obtain a rough preliminary estimate of this required variation, the curves of operating frequency versus path length (Figures 1 and 2 of this report) were used, together with the curves of radiation angle versus path length (Figure 2 of Interim Development Report No. 7). The results are shown in Figures 3 and 4 of this report. Not enough results are available as yet to warrant the drawing of any conclusions.

3. Several organizations have been contacted in an effort to obtain recent and reliable information concerning angles-of-arrival, but nothing new has, as yet, been secured. Full information, however, has not been received from the two most promising sources.
4. The analysis, mentioned in Interim Development Report No. 7, of the method devised for the horizontal steering of the beam of a rhombic antenna has been checked and an error found. Consequently the analysis has had to be redone and no numerical results are yet available. The numerical calculations are very laborious and, therefore, the obtaining of results will be slow. It may turn out that it will be better to investigate this problem experimentally.

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### Detail Factual Data - Continued

5. At the Bureau of Ships Shore Antenna Symposium, held early in March, Mr. Roland of Pickard-Burns discussed the possibility of altering the characteristics of rhombic antennas by increasing the phase velocity along the conductors of the antenna. On the present project it is desirable to use square rhombics in order to facilitate 360° azimuthal steering of the beam. Such a rhombic has a radiation pattern considerably inferior to that of a well-designed conventional rhombic. Consequently the scheme discussed by Mr. Roland is being investigated in an attempt to improve the performance of a square rhombic. As a first step in this investigation three square rhombic antennas have been designed, having conductor phase velocities of 1.0, 1.2 and 1.414 times the free-space velocity, respectively. Each of these antennas was designed to have, at an elevation angle of 20°, the maximum possible response at this angle. The resulting dimensions and vertical patterns are shown in Figures 5 to 7, inclusive. An examination of these three figures reveals that increasing the phase velocity along the conductor results in an increase in size of the rhombic of optimum design, in a sharpening of the main beam, in a reduction in the magnitude of the side lobes and an increase in gain. These results are to be expected. The practical problem of achieving the desired increase in phase velocity over a wide frequency range has received no serious consideration, as yet.
6. A literature search for material on V-antennas and on tilted antennas has been made and the few pertinent papers read. The next step is to investigate the possibilities of adapting and extending these results to an antenna which will be useful to the present task. The particular antenna which appears to offer some promise of being useful is one made of inclined radial wires, to be used in pairs as terminated V-antennas. The object of the inclination of the wires relative to ground is to circumvent the difficulties arising from the height factor of the antenna when the antenna is used over an 8-to-1 frequency range.
7. Work was started on the analysis of the propagation characteristics of a circular travelling-wave antenna.
8. An investigation was made of a steerable single ring circular antenna array for which the horizontal pattern is invariant with changes in frequency. This characteristic of the pattern was noted in connection with a similar array being studied under Contract No. NObsr-57032, and was investigated to determine its suitability for the present task. The array consists of a group of vertical monopoles arranged in a circle, with a single monopole at the center. The elements around the circumference are excited so that their phase varies uniformly around the circle, there being one complete cycle of phase shift around the ring. The prop-

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### Factual Data - Continued

erties of the array are as follows:

- a. The horizontal pattern is a cardioid.
- b. To change the direction of azimuthal pointing only the phase of the current in the central element is varied.
- c. The cardioidal horizontal pattern does not vary with frequency if the magnitude of the current in the central element varies with frequency in the proper manner. This variation of the required current in the central element to give a fixed horizontal pattern is shown in Figure 8, for the typical case of an array of 9 elements whose radius is 0.294 wavelength at the highest frequency used.
- d. The vertical pattern varies only slightly with frequency if the condition outlined above is satisfied. Vertical patterns are given in Figure 9, for the case described above.
- e. If two cycles of phase shift are used the horizontal pattern is a figure -8, which is again invariant with frequency. In general, for  $n$  cycles of phase shift, the pattern will consist of  $n$  equal and equally spaced lobes.

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DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING  
ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

PROJECT PERFORMANCE AND SCHEDULE

Index No. NE-091035 ST7

Contract No. NObsr-57448

Date: 10 May 1953

Legend:  Work Performed

Period Covered: 1/4/53 to 30/4/53

Schedule of Projected  
Operation

Subject	1952				1953											
	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	
1. Development of Field Test Facilities.																
2. Study of Propagation Problem.																
a. Investigation of paths lying entirely in night region.																
b. Investigation of paths lying entirely in day region.																
c. Investigation of paths lying partly in day and partly in night region.																
d. Investigation of auroral refraction.																
3. Determination of Suitable Antenna Type or Types.																
a. Search of literature.																
b. Theoretical Study.																
4. Detailed Theoretical and Experimental Investigation of Most Promising Antenna Types.																
5. Development of Network System Suitable for Driving Array.																
6. Experimental Study of Final Array.																
7. Preparation of Phase Report.																

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### Conclusions

1. The work on the propagation problem has not progressed far enough to allow the drawing of any conclusions.
2. The technique of increasing the phase velocity along the conductors of a rhombic antenna appears to be a valuable tool in the design of rhombic antennas.
3. The patterns of the circular ring array seem unsuitable because of the lack of sufficient directivity. No way of securing a pattern invariant with frequency and having a high enough directivity has yet been found.

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### Program for Next Interval

During the next month the following work will be pursued:

1. Work on the propagation problem will be continued. The determination of operating frequencies for use under ionospheric conditions corresponding to those of June 1947 will be made. The calculation of expected median field intensities, when using these frequencies, will be started. An attempt will be made to adapt this propagation information to the determination of the required characteristics of the antenna.
2. The problem of the horizontal steering of the beam of a rhombic antenna will continue to be investigated.
3. The study of the possibilities of using an antenna consisting of inclined radial wires will be carried on, as will the work on the circular travelling-wave antenna.

Figure 1  
Operating Frequency Vs. Path  
Length for Night, Jan. 1953.

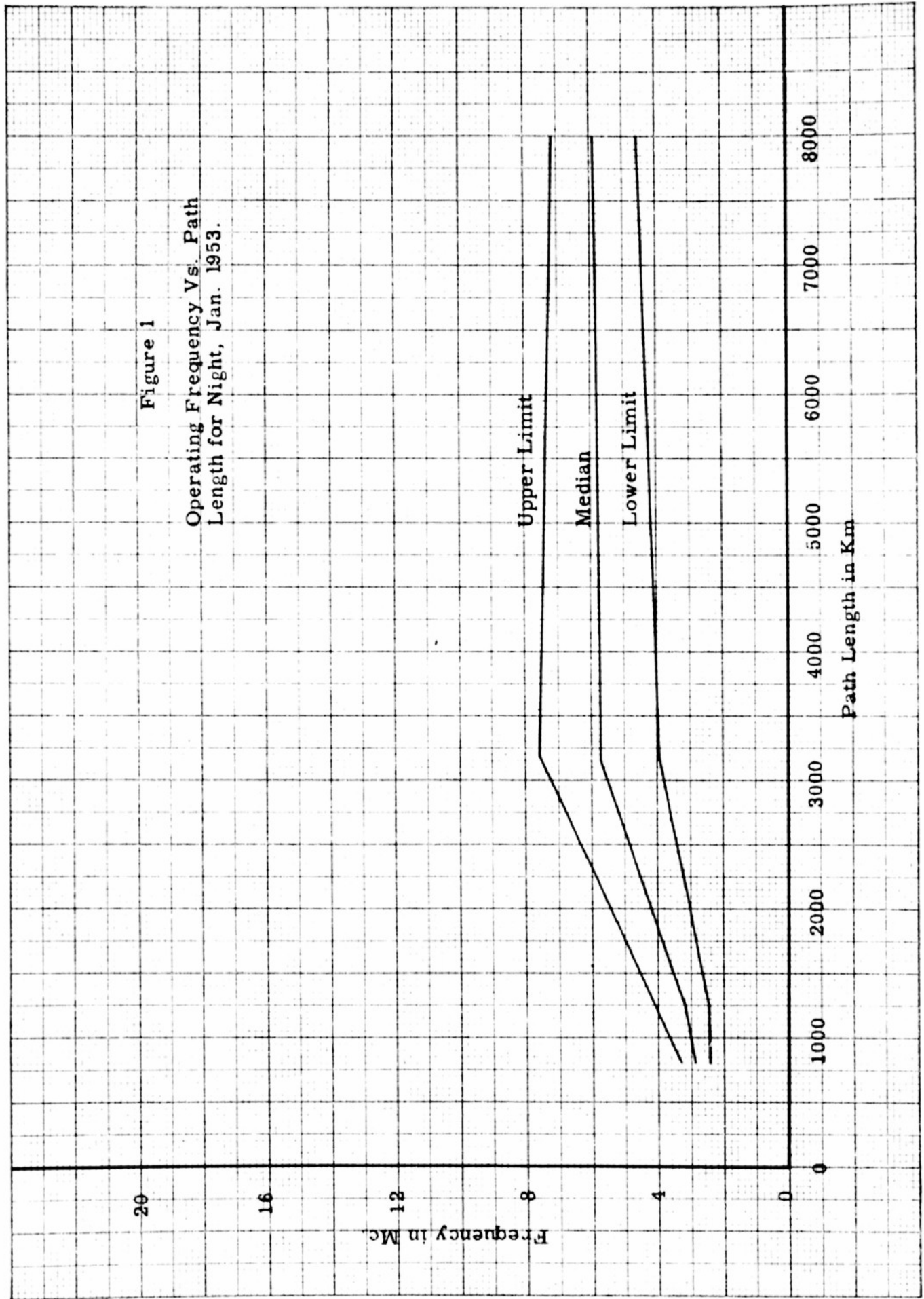
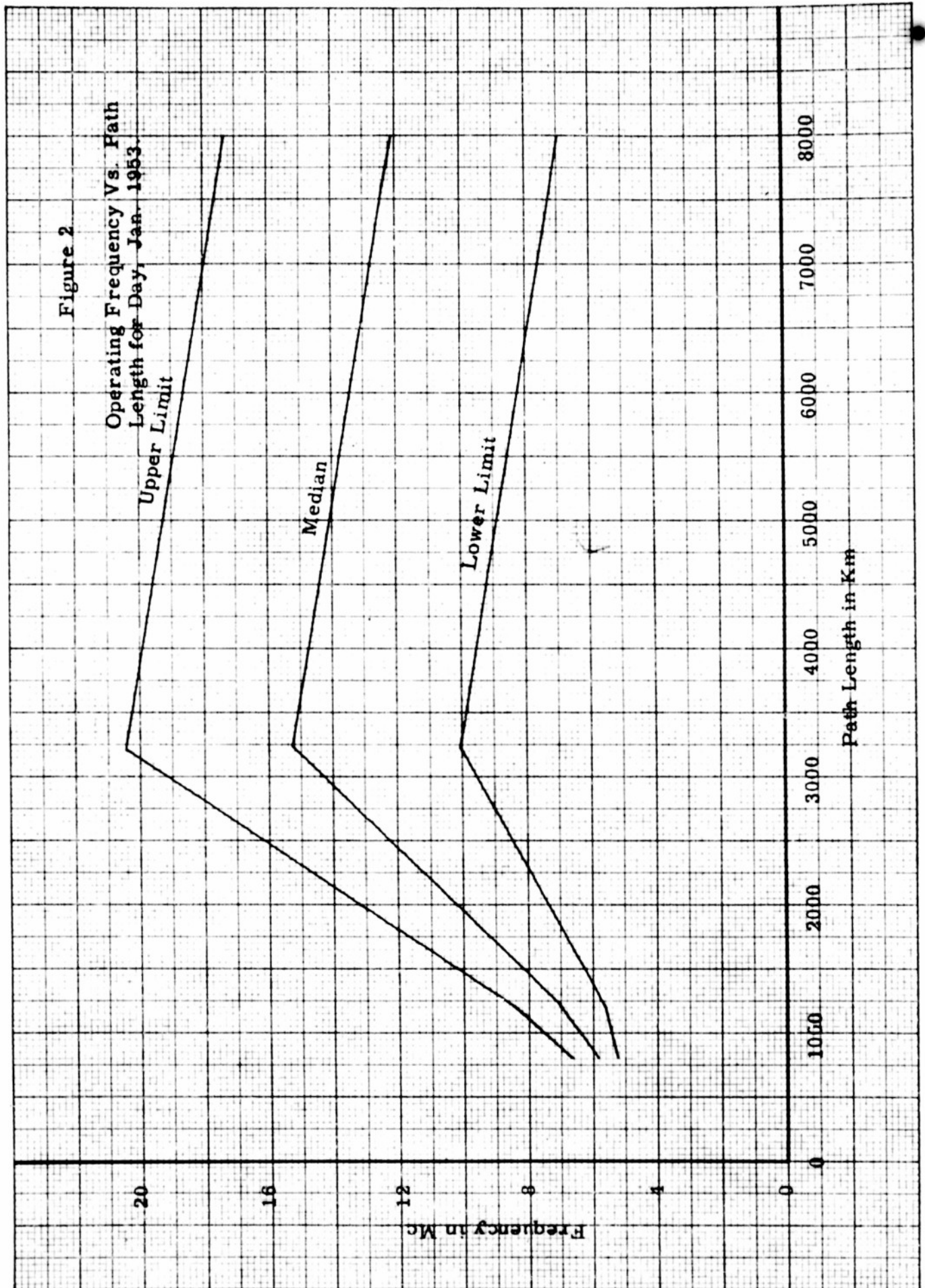


Figure 2  
Operating Frequency Vs. Path  
Length for Day, Jan. 1953



REPRODUCED BY RANDOLPH CO. N. Y. NO. 100-10  
10 x 10 to the 1/2 inch. 5th 1/2 inch. 10 in.  
Engraving 7 x 10 in.  
Date 10.0.5.4

Figure 3  
Radiation Angle Vs. Operating  
Frequency for Night, Jan. 1953.

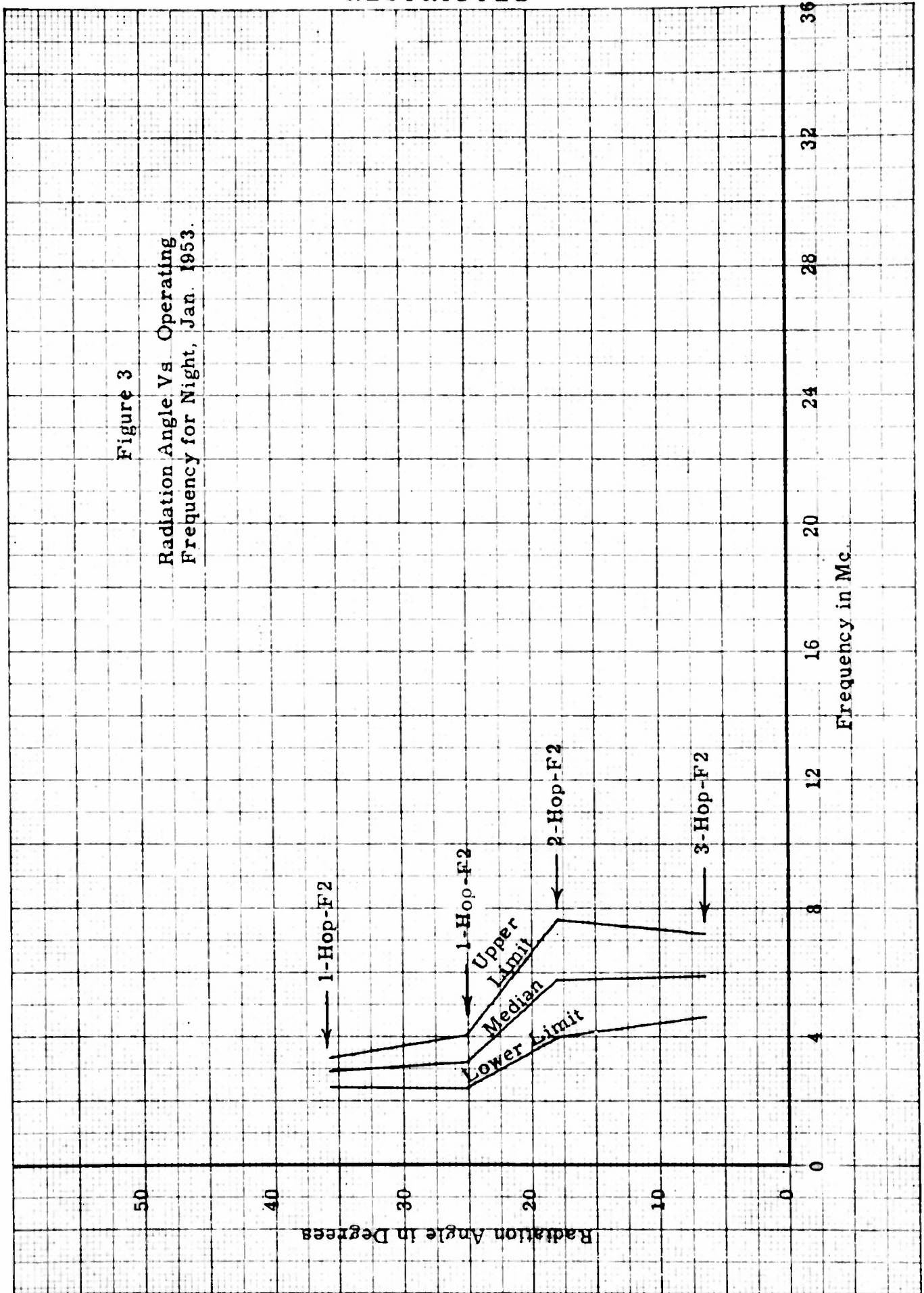


Figure 4  
Radiation Angle Vs. Operating  
Frequency for Day, Jan 1953

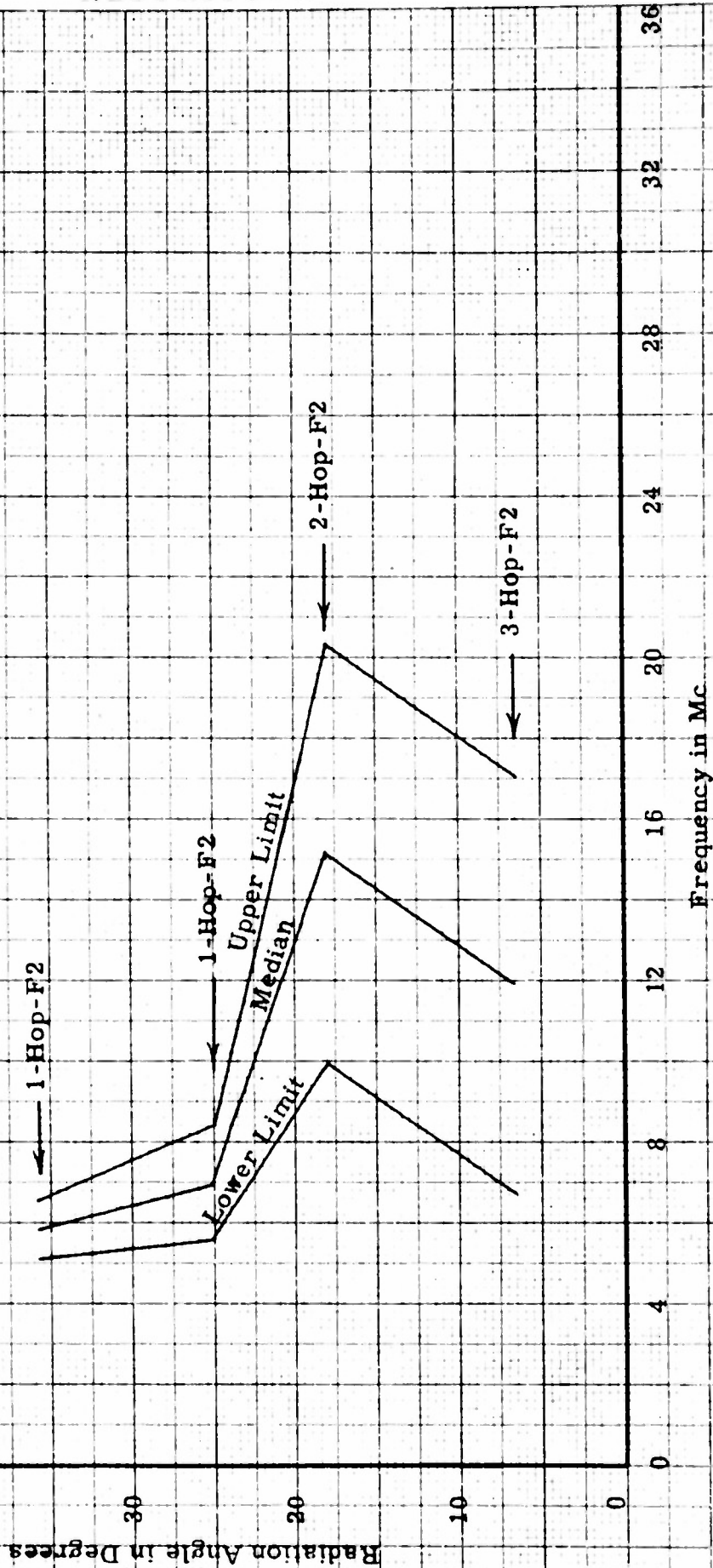
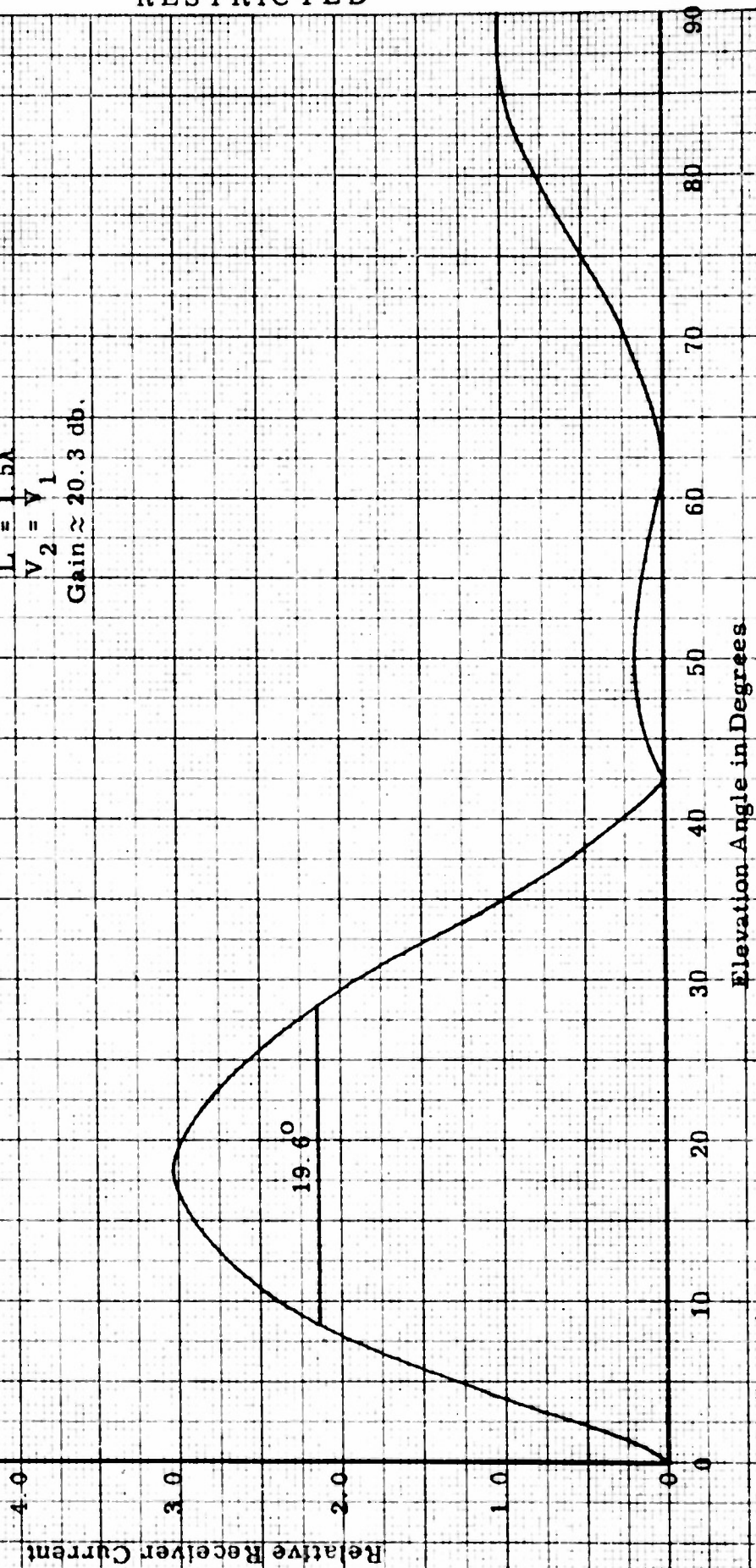


Figure 5

**SQUARE RHOMBIC ANTENNA**  
**RADIATION PATTERN - VERTICAL PLANE**  
 Designed For Conductor Phase Velocity Greater  
 Than Freespace Velocity ( $V_2 > V_1$ ).

$\psi = 45^\circ$   
 $H = 0.73\lambda$   
 $L = 1.5\lambda$   
 $V_2 = V_1$   
 Gain  $\approx 20.3$  db.



KEUFFEL & ESSER CO., N. Y. NO. 398-11  
 1/4" x 10" to the 1/8" inch. 5th. 10th. 30th. 40th.  
 Engraving 7 x 10 in.  
 MADE IN U.S.A.

Figure 6

SQUARE RHOMBIC ANTENNA  
RADIATION PATTERN - VERTICAL PLANE  
Designed For Conductor Phase Velocity Greater  
Than Freespace Velocity ( $V_2 > V_1$ ).

$$\psi = 45^\circ$$

$$H = 0.73\lambda$$

$$L = 3\lambda$$

$$V_2 = 1.2 V_1$$

$$\text{Gain} \approx 22.5 \text{ db}$$

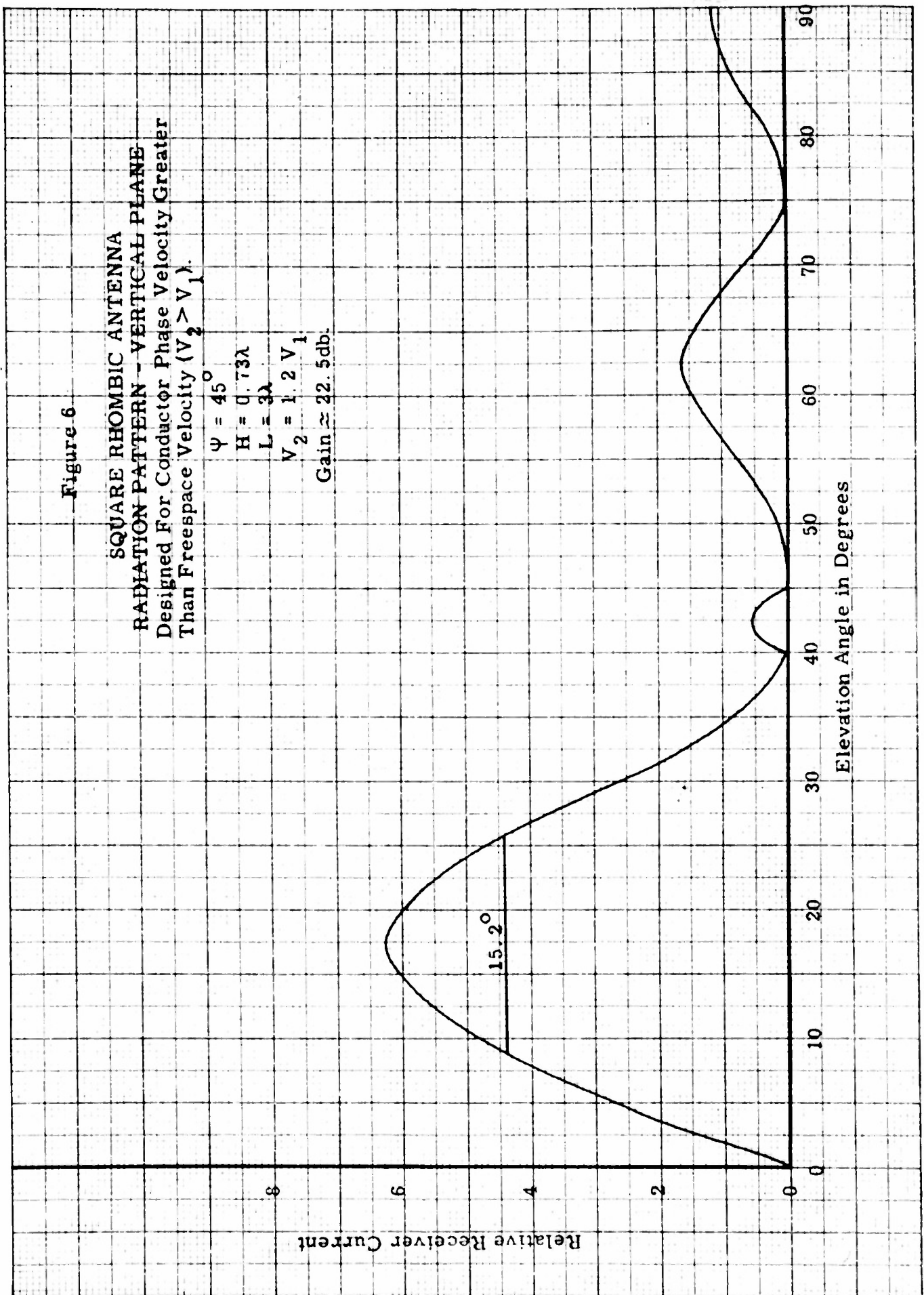


Figure 7

SQUARE RHOMBIC ANTENNA  
RADIATION PATTERN - VERTICAL PLANE  
Designed For Conductor Phase Velocity Greater  
Than Free-space Velocity ( $V_2 > V_1$ ).

$$\psi = 45^\circ$$

$$H = 0.73\lambda$$

$$L = 11.71\lambda$$

$$V_2 = 1.414V_1$$

$$\text{Gain} \approx 26.1 \text{ db.}$$

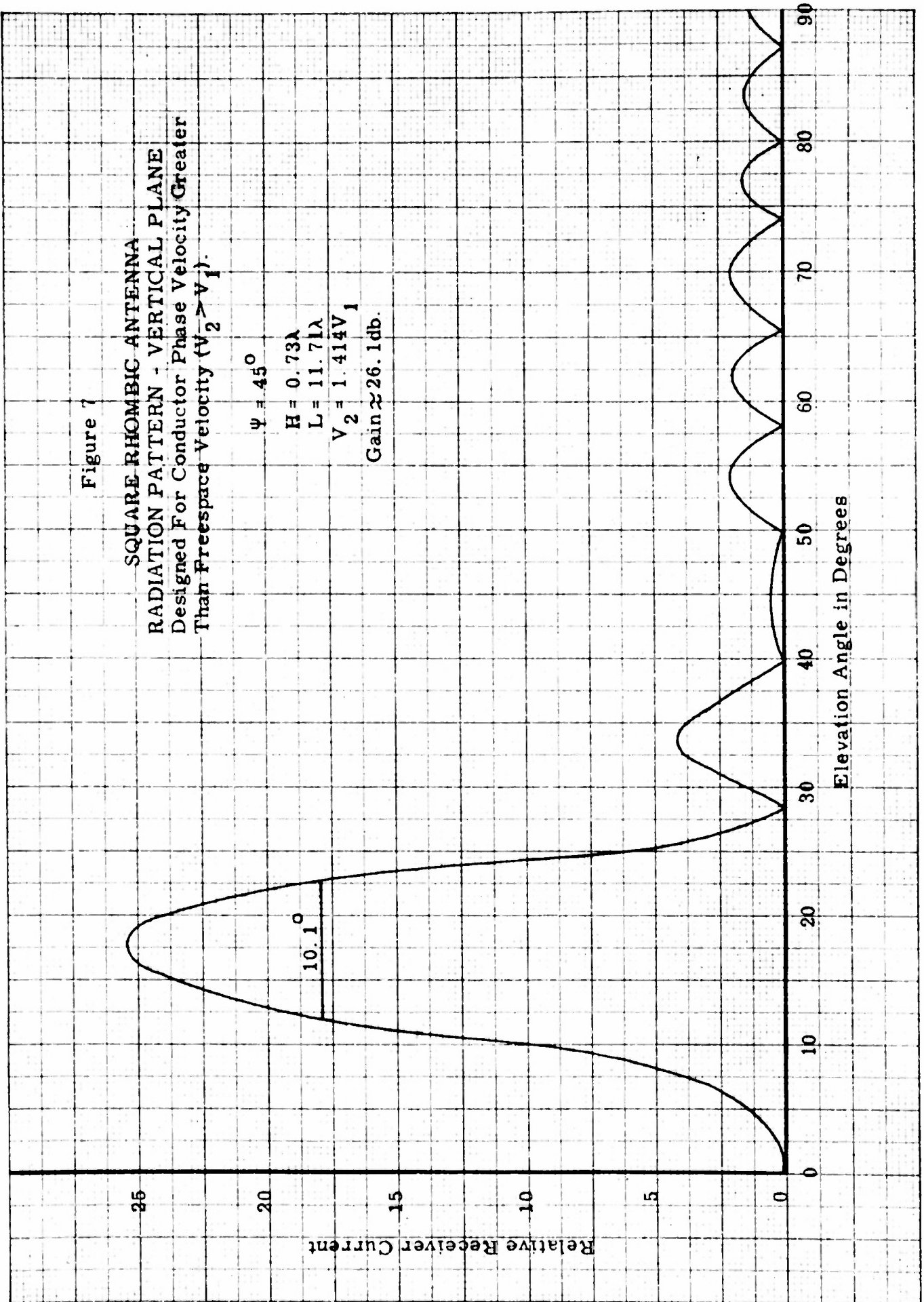
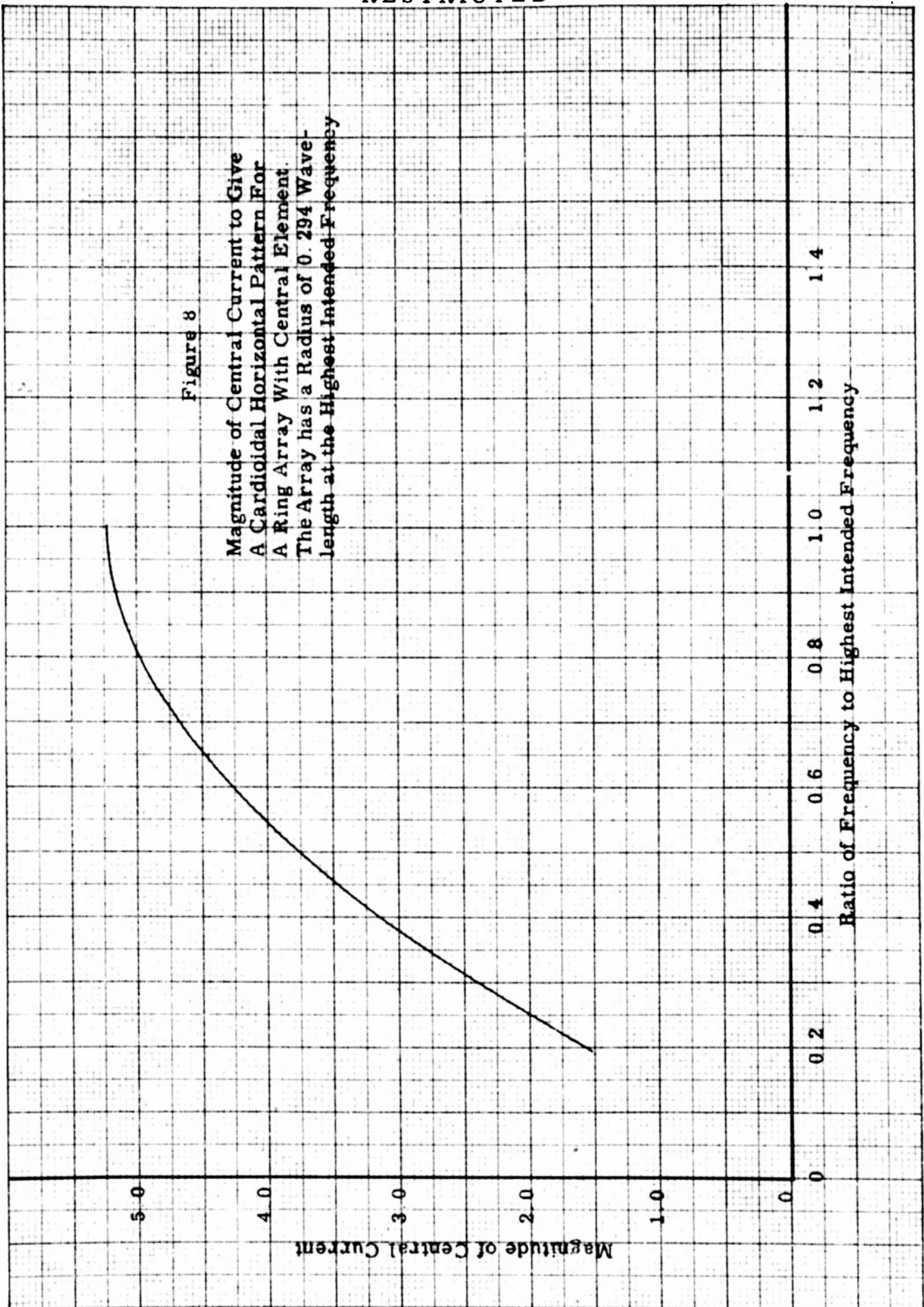


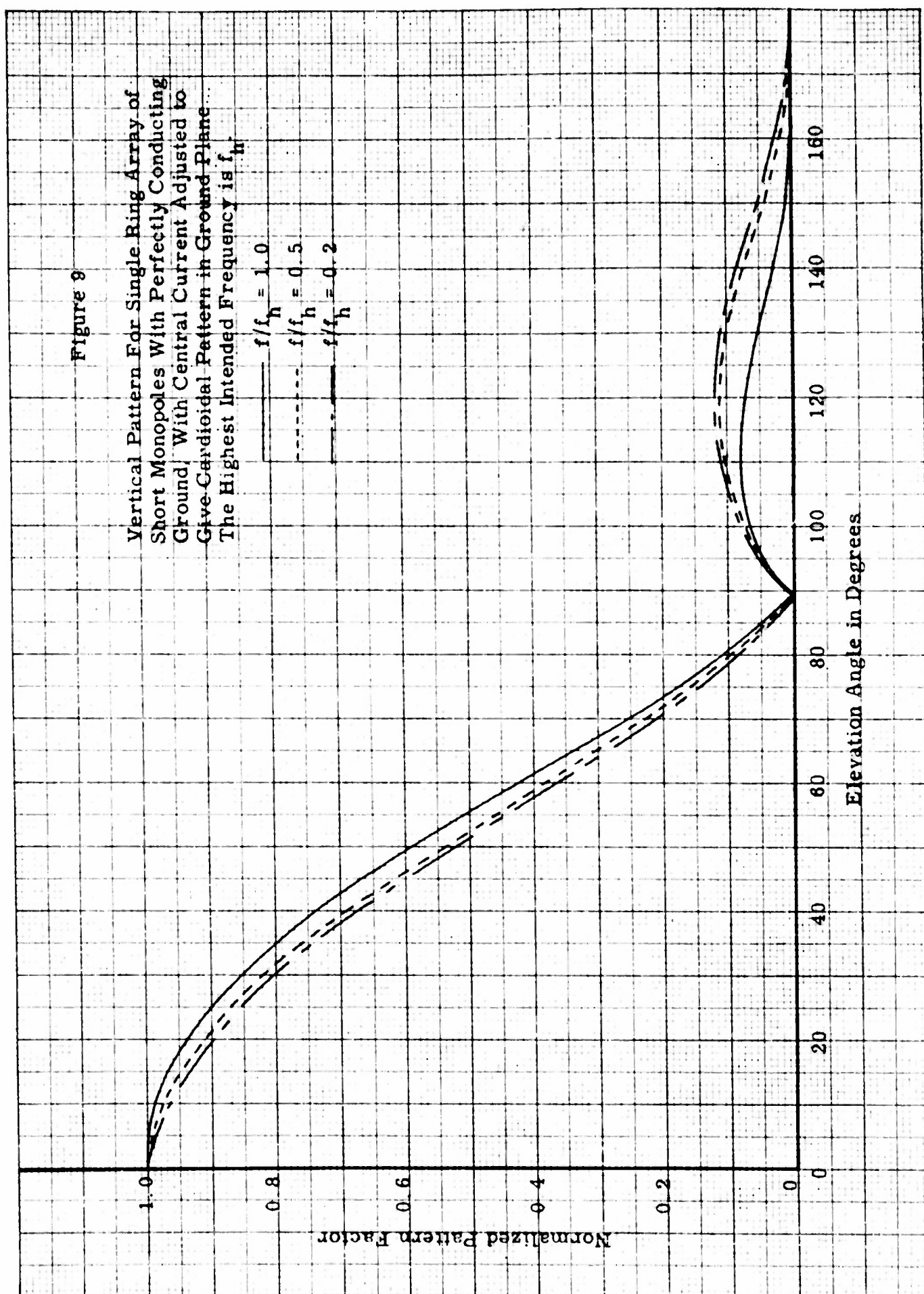
Figure 8

Magnitude of Central Current to Give  
A Cardioid Horizontal Pattern For  
A Ring Array With Central Element.  
The Array has a Radius of 0.294 Wave-  
length at the Highest Intended Frequency



48. PHELPS & ESSER CO., N. Y., NO. 900-11  
10 x 13 in. by inch 5th Ed. 1941  
Engineering 2 2 10 in  
W-1 14 10 1 1 1

Vertical Pattern For Single Ring Array of Short Monopoles With Perfectly Conducting Ground, With Central Current Adjusted to Give Cardioidal Pattern in Ground Plane. The Highest Intended Frequency is  $f_h$ .



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